NOTE: THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION
WAS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BEFORE
OR AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING
ON THIS ITEM WHICH IS NOW APPEARING
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

Regarding the 18b Las Vegas Arts District & REI Neon LLC

From Concerned Las Vegas Residents, Business Owners, Artists, & Patrons



However, we cannot support

2 REI Neon, LLC's current proposed project.

Because

3 We feel the aesthetics (important to an Arts District) of the project are detrimental to the pedestrian-friendly and hip/historic look of the neighborhood.

Because

4 We feel that the traffic plan doesn't address the fact that the current public right-of-ways would not support this project – and the roads would definitely be widened, further eroding the desired pedestrian nature of the neighborhood.

Because

- 5 A 22,000 seat arena, 6,000 hotel rooms, and 1,500 time-share condos are not conducive to an Arts District neighborhood.
- 6 Plus the addition of casinos to this area is in direct opposition to the Centennial Plan, which was created to maintain a citizen-friendly downtown.

Thank you

7 For allowing us to express our opinions about this project.

Dear Las Vegas Officials,

My name is Todd VonBastiaans and I own two business that are licensed in the City of Las Vegas on Commerce Street: Atomic Todd (an arts business) and Alios (a lighting design agency).

I moved Alios into the Commerce offices this fall from South Valley View Boulevard and opened Atomic Todd this past winter. I also choose to make my home in Downtown Las Vegas. I live in the Glen Heather Estates on the corner of Rancho Drive and Oakey Boulevard. I am a huge supporter and advocate of the continued development and expansion of Downtown Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Arts District.

However, I cannot support the project that has been presented by the REI Group. I attended the first meeting held by REI at Artist Iron Works to present what I was led to believe was to be a mixed-use project. Instead, we were presented with a sports arena, tons of parking structures, three casinos and hotels. As a resident and business owner so very close to this project, I don't see how this is an effective use of the area. Most importantly anyone reviewing their concept and design could point out the flaws see how this is an effective use of the area. Most importantly anyone reviewing their concept and design could point out the flaws with regards to traffic. They refer to the design as pedestrian "friendly," but it appears to me as a giant eight-story fortress of parking structures along Main Street and on the perimeter.

Please don't misunderstand, I am in support of sports arenas (I grew up in Chicago). I love to see new projects and construction. I cant support this particular project, because I simply dont trust that these developers are really going to do anything other than rezone the land to make it attractive to future potential buyers (in other words, wait until they can "flip" it).

A review of their past projects is a great way to learn about what they really do. They site Detroits arena as a success, but I ask that you visitDetroit for yourself and see the arena and surrounding area they boast about in their discussions, rather than taking them at their word. The additional access points and exits would require City money for street improvements, which as far as I can tell has not been discussed (there must be at least \$150,000,000 needed to achieve that portion of the project).

I am not suggesting this area isn't in need of some development, but isn't this the kind of development that so many of you in our local government fought to have zoned specifically a few years back. A wonderful mixed-use project would be an excellent choice for this area, but a cursory quick review of this proposal shows its lack of direction, and tasteful and functional improvement to the City of Las Vegas.

Las Vegas is a very young city and has the resources and talent to make itself a culturally sophisticated, metropolitan marvel. This is not the plan that would add to the advancement of our cultural, business, and improved living environment. This project would absolutely hurt the downtown casinos and the entertainment district that the city has spent so many years to work to achieve. I also wonder why this area couldn't be redeveloped with mixed-use shopping and housing. We have so many new residents coming to town as professionals in the casinos and it would be a perfect area to put in housing and create a new neighborhood that would be perfectly located to all the law offices and downtown business and right up Industrial Road to the Strip casinos.

Las Vegas is a city that likes to be over the top, but we are also a great city to live in. Why don't we prove it by approving the sort of development that further enhance Downtown's urban renaissance (see http://www.lvra.com/business_7625381.ntml). Projects such as Sullivan Square or The District in Green Valley would be wonderful ideas to bring down to this area for development.

With my deepest concern for the City of Las Vegas as a resident and business owner I cannot support this project,

Todd VonBastiaans

1708 Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89102



From:

"Michele C Quinn" <mquinn@gcarts-lv.com>

To: Sent:

Sunday, May 13, 2007 11:41 AM

Subject:

FW: Downtown Development Proposal

See below

From: Michele C Quinn [mailto:mquinn@gcarts-lv.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2007 11:41 AM

To: 'ltarkanian@lasvegasnevada.gov'; 'lbrown@lasvegasnevada.gov'

Subject: Downtown Development Proposal

Importance: High

Dear Lois and Mr. Brown -

I am the director of G-C Arts at 1217 S. Main Street (Lois -we have met through Erin Bilbray-Kohn).

I have been made aware of the proposed development on the west side of Main Street, directly across from the gallery. It is extremely disturbing that the city council is even entertaining the idea of a sports arena, and vaguely described casino project from a development company that clearly has little invested in the community. I was unfortunately not able to attend the proposal that took place in recent weeks, but the feedback I have heard was that it was far from a thoroughly developed nor professional business plan.

I moved our gallery to the downtown Arts District in September of 2004 (then known as Godt-Cleary Gallery). At the time, Glenn Schaeffer and I were partners and invested a significant amount of finances into the lease on Main Street as we saw the tremendous opportunity that downtown offered as an art community. The city and the business owners of the Arts District have worked very hard to establish a positive community awareness and the Arts District has done nothing but IMPROVE the profile of the downtown redevelopment efforts. In fact, every new business that comes to the downtown area appear to utilize the "ARTS DISTRICT" as a selling point in their marketing and PR campaigns. In addition, our gallery and the community of galleries in the area have received national and international press for the work we are doing in this area.

To allow a rezoning that jeopardizes the quality of the neighborhood by ripping it apart into a logistical nightmare with traffic patterns disrupted and a complete disintegration of the Arts District – will only destroy all of the positive work that has been achieved in the last 3 years. I can honestly tell you that if this is built in our neighborhood – I will only be forced to relocate our gallery.

My immediate concern is that this company, with clearly no real business strategy, only intends to purchase what is considered to be a speculative real estate investment, destroy what is currently exists, sit on the land for appreciated value and then sell it. (As we have seen in MANY other locations in the city, i.e. the Las Ramblas property) In the meantime, the property sits undeveloped and seriously sets back any future potential for the neighborhood to grow and develop in a positive way. There is no positive outcome for this proposal.

Please reconsider any thoughts of allowing this to proceed. It would be a disgrace to the city to be sold out to the highest bidder without any thought to the existing business owners working hard to make this neighborhood a destination and a community.

I thank you for your time.

Michele C Quinn Director of GC Arts 1217 S Main Street 702 219 0131



From:

"Robin Barcus" <robinbarcus@hotmail.com>

To:

<ltarkanian@lasvegasnevada.gov>; <lbrown@lasvegasnevada.gov>; <bwilliams@lasvegasnevada.gov>; <greese@lasvegasnevada.gov>;

<swolfson@lasvegasnevada.gov>; <sross@lasvegasnevada.gov>;

<dselby@lasvegasnevada.gov>; <sadams@lasvegasnevada.gov>; <anchorstitch@aol.com>; <RaymondArrington@hotmail.com>; <barbaralbarcus@netzero.com>; <debarcus@rcn.com>; <Melissa@chiapartment.com>; <Melissabarcus@aol.com>; <rootcellargallery@gmail.com>;

<cartwrpl@aol.com>; <dave.pettinger@doitbest.com>; <dbarcus@d181.org>

Sent:

Friday, May 18, 2007 10:17 PM

Subject:

Las Vegas Arts District

Dear Friends.

I recently moved to Las Vegas from Chicago, where I had a successful art career, showing at numerous galleries and museums in and around the city.

Getting my art career moving in Las Vegas has been an interesting challenge after having so many resources in Chicago. However, the first thing that made me feel at home was stumbling across the First Friday arts festival, where I now volunteer every month. I love feeling like I am in a "walking city" again, as I wander in and out of galleries and artist's studios, making new friends and connections. I feel this grassroots festival is really taking on wings, as I watch attendance soar and new businesses move in. A favorite memory of the festival was the passing out of chalk to children, who could safely draw on the closed streets, until all the asphalt in view was transformed into a massive street painting. The excitement I feel as I make Las Vegas my new home is due to the real desire I have witnessed its residents possess for art. Their hunger is fueling the transformation of Las Vegas into a great place to be an artist, from what was once considered a cultural void.

My husband is also a Chicago transplant, currently performing in Le Reve at the Wynn. We have been meeting with real estate agents about moving from our Summerlin home to live downtown, and have already been viewing homes nearby the arts district as our first pick. However, we are very disturbed by the proposed zoning changes around Charleston and Main. We understand that this change is to make way for a big chunk of the arts district to become a sports stadium and casinos, which we do not feel will contribute to the "walking city" feeling we love in the current arts district.

I understand there is money to be made with current development plans, but please take some time to consider that the benefits of a thriving arts district is priceless to your residents.

Sincerely, Robin Barcus Slonina

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From:

"Cristina Paulos" <cristina.paulos@gmail.com>

To: Sent: <cristina.paulos@gmail.com>
Monday, May 21, 2007 1:03 PM

Subject:

RE: Artist District Rezoning

To whom it may concern,

The Arts are a true expression of humanity. Art improves our community and awareness. Having an Arts District is very important in our cities landscape today and for the future. It inspires everything to new ways of thinking and living; to increasing the quality of life. Art gives the ability to encourage individual voices and ideas. It will bring a positive metropolitan community to the Downtown area. If this Area is allowed to fully be nurtured and grow, I truly believe that Vegas will one day become the "future city".

A Future city, in the sense that: all other cities and countries will become influenced by Vegas for art, music, dance, theatre, dining, and leisure. Very much like the cities of New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Tokyo, etc.. The Arts must stay in Vegas and should remain a positive focus in the City of Vegas.

Unfortunately, a Sports arena will remove much of the district and will it the chance for Vegas art to be fully develop.

Maybe you're not an art enthusiast, but still can see the profound effects art has on our city. I would like to point out the following that the sport arena might cause to the area.

A large sports arena combined with an already congested traffic area (location of the 15 fwy) will surely double or triple the problem into a larger and massive area. Making the average Vegas resident very uncomfortable and vulnerable to dangerous traffic accidents. I am eager for you to please rethink the sports arena area location. There is a lot of land available to build the sport area I suggest away from the 15 fwy congestion. The sport arena might provoke sports gambling.

Sincerely,

Cristina Natsuko Paulos http://cristinapaulos.com

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Regarding entertainment zoning (CASINO AND SPORTS ARENA) for land from Charleston north to Wyoming, Main west to the RR tracks. Sign below with full address to maintain current and mixed use zoning ONLY of this area, part of which is in the Las Vegas Arts District.

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RECEIVED CITY CLERK

TO: City Clerk fax 382.4803

FROM: Marlene Adrian, City of Las Vegas resident

2001 MAY 23 A 8: 03

RE: Items 16through 24 of the City Planning Commission Agenda, May 24, 2007

Meeting

DATE: May 22, 2007

I oppose Items 16 through 24 of the City Planning Commission Agenda for the May 24, 2007 Meeting. These items relate to the request by REI-NEON for rezoning and other related changes in city regulations

I attended a meeting held at the IronWorks on Commerce at Charleston on April 24. The presented plan by the REI-group was vague and contradictory. Looking at their past record (their website and the Detroit newspapers) I see nothing to suggest that they would be able to develop the area in the best interests of the city. It seemed to me that they would bull doze the area if zoning were approved and they would hold on to the land and sell years later for a huge profit and not really have an interest in developing the land now.

Their plan included a stadium at the corner of Charleston and Main Street. This is one of the least likely places to put a stadium and the traffic patterns would be unacceptable. They indicated that this stadium might be a concert hall instead and would not be competition to the newly proposed performing arts center.

With each question asked, the representatives responses from REI-NEON implied a lack of a well-conceived plan. They even changed their responses to the same question as different persons wanted clarification or more details.

REI-NEON said 100% of the land owners had agreed to sell and then stated, when queried further, that the Casa San Juan Restaurant would remain intact on the west side of Main Street. NOT willing to sell? It would be impossible to widen Main Street with the restaurant at its present site.

REI-NEON indicated that a smooth transition would be attempted between the Arts District on the East side of Main Street when developing the west side of Main Street and west. They stated that the Arts District would not be compromised. Yet how can this be when they are taking the land.

Since there have been a more than two dozen artists who have opened galleries on the west side of Main Street and the east side of Commerce street in the past three years, the destruction of this expansion would be detrimental to the future of the Arts District and First Friday impact on downtown Las Vegas should the REI-NEON requests be granted.

Marlene Adrian 7920 Aviano Pines Avenue Las Vegas NV 89129-5593

adrianmj@cox.net

Telephone 655.2146

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To: City of Las Vegas

City Clerk Fax: 382-4803

2001 MAY 23 A 8: 03

Date: May 22, 2007

I, Denise R. Duarte, am opposed to items 16-24 on the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting on May 24, 2007, otherwise referred to as the R.E.I. Group, Inc. "REI Neon".

I strongly believe that a re-development project of this type does not benefit the citizens of Las Vegas and the surrounding area. This project, as planned, does not add a conducive and encouraging environment to increase the viability of the surrounding neighborhoods and Arts District.

It also appears that they have simply added a "sports arena" to their plan in order to touch all the hot topics of the media. I question the location for such a structure. Certainly, the traffic patterns and infrastructure of the area do not support a 22,000 seat arena. I can think of several other areas within the city of Las Vegas that would be more conducive to hosting a sports arena that the proposed area in REI Neon project. Sports fans are not the same demographic as art patrons and therefore, they would not provide a financial benefit to the existing businesses of the area.

The Arts District encompasses the surrounding area and has extended into the area that would be eliminated by this proposal. The architectural elements facing Main Street in this proposal, are not welcoming and would not provide an atmosphere that would attract a healthy business climate on the east side of the street. The Arts District is part of an existing city plan and there has been significant benefits to Las Vegas by its existence and its activities. I honestly believe that this proposed development, the REI Neon project, has not been designed to enhance the area and it would negatively impact the Arts District, which is a successful example of urban revitalization and is a cultural hub for a city starved for an arts community.

Americans for the Arts, which will have its annual conference here in Las Vegas in June, recently released a report titled: Arts & Economic Prosperity III. This study states that the nonprofit arts and culture industry provides \$166 billion in economic activity and 5.7 million jobs annually with \$29.6 billion in federal, state and local revenues. Local government tax revenues nationally total \$7.9 billion with 5.7 million full-time equivalent jobs and \$104.2 billion in resident household income.

The Americans for the Arts president, Robert L. Lynch states on their website that "This study is a myth buster... Most Americans understand that the arts improve our quality of life. This study demonstrates that the arts are an industry that stimulates the economy in cities and towns across the country. A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive."

The Arts & Economic Prosperity study shows that nonprofits arts support more jobs than accountants and auditors, public safety officers, and even lawyers, and just slightly fewer than elementary school teachers. Spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations provide rewarding employment for more than just artists, curators, and musicians but they also directly support builders, plumbers, accountants, printers, and an array of occupations.

The Arts District of Las Vegas is just now beginning to thrive and there has been significant redevelopment activity to date. The dawning of a vibrant arts community has begun, however, I believe that REI Neon would destroy what has been built and the economic and life benefits of the Arts District would be lost. There are plenty of gaming and sports arena potential sites in Las Vegas other than this critical area. However, Las Vegas needs a thriving arts community in the existing Arts District to provide diversity for tourists and locals alike. A diversified tax base is a healthy tax base.

In addition, I have reservations regarding the developer's history regarding projects of this type. It is unclear to me, after reading their website, that they have a successful history of re-development. I am concerned that they are merely buying up a large parcel of land, if they are successful in getting the area re-zoned, bull dozing the acreage leaving a void and then re-selling this large parcel many years down the road for a large profit.

I would support a re-development project that would bring financial and life enhancing benefits to Las Vegas by encompassing the existing city plan and complimenting the Arts District, which would provide viable economic benefit to the area. However, this proposal does not meet my criteria.

Please deny agenda items #16 -24.

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Sincerely

Denise R. Duarte 7920 Aviano Pines Ave

Las Vegas, NV 89129

702-372-3755

THEY CLERK



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Robin L. Lewis Also admitted in California e-mail riewis@pnalaw.net

May 22, 2007

RE: SDR #21175

To Whom This May Concern:

Please be advised that as owners of properties located in downtown Las Vegas (1209 Main Street, 1211 Main Street & Commerce Street Studios) we fully support the intended proposal referred to above.

Imanuel B. Arin, Esq.

Andrew Feiler